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MSC BRIEFING

17 January 1956

YUGOSLAVIA

- I. Although Yugoslav government continues to maintain position of balance between East and West, Yugoslav relations with Soviet bloc have recently been marked by increasing economic co-operation.
 - A. Increased co-operation along political and party lines has remained negligible, but since mid-'55 Yugos have been busy formalizing agreements outlined in economic talks at Moscow in Sept '55.
 - B. '56 trade with USSR is scheduled to total \$70 million-nearly double the level called for in '55--and similar
 trade agreements for '56 have been concluded with Poland and Rumania.
 - C. Soviet blcc scheduled trade for 1956 may become 30% of total Yugoslav foreign trade as compared to about 20% in 1955 and 50% in 1947.
 - D. Nothing indicates the shipment of strategic goods.
- II. A Yugo-Soviet agreement on scientific and technical cooperation (signed 19 Dec '55) provides for exchanging experts and experience in all branches of economic activities.
 - A. USSR will also help build two Yugo fertilizer plants and one power station, rehabilitate three small mines (type of ore undisclosed).

State Dept. review completed

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SEARCET

- 1. One factory will produce nitrogen fertilizer -- annual capacity: 100,000 tons of ammonia.
- Other is superphosphate factory—annual capacity:
 250,000 tons superphosphate, 120,000 tons sulphuric acid.
- 3. Thermal power station will produce 100,000 KW.
- B. Agreement on use of remainder of Soviet credits (total: some \$220 million) expected this month.
 - 1. Funds granted in ten-year credits at 2%.
 - 2. \$54 million (for raw materials) and \$30 million (in freely-convertable gold) are to be drawn in two to three years.
 - 3. \$120 million (for agriculture investment) must be drawn before 1960.
- C. Draft agreement on Soviet construction of experimental atomic reactor has also been okayed.
 - 1. Although no details have not been released, USSR apparently will supply technical assistance (including design, equipment, materials and fuel).
 - 2. Yugos have delayed final signature on project possibly as bargaining device for present atomic talks with West.
- III. On political front, Tito's recent visits to Egypt and Ethiopia culminated a year marked by constant endeavors to
 expand Yugoslavia's influence among underdeveloped and uncommitted states, strengthen Yugo's "independent" position
 between East and West.

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- A. Tito's strong denunciation of Baghdad pact, while consistent with longstanding Yugo views on big-power military groupings, clearly aimed to win Belgrade Arab friends.
- E. Tito had general discussion of Middle Eastern problems with Egyptians, but says he never sought to mediate

 Arab-Israeli conflict. US embassy Cairo has heard that Egyptians found discussions "boring."
- C. Final Tito-Nasr communique (on independence of both Yugo and Egypt in foreign affairs and economic programs) was evident double-barreled warning not only against alleged Anglo-American interference in Egypt, but also against any Soviet intent to influence policies of either country.
 - 1. Yugoslavs feel particularly qualified to alert
 Egyptians to dangers inherent in too close relations
 with USSR.
 - 2. Tito, at Nasr's request, gave latter a copy of Yugoslavia's White Book (which treats in detail Soviet efforts to infiltrate, overthrow Tito regime).

SEUNE!

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 - A. Increased co-operation along political and party lines has remained negligible, but since mid-Dec '55 Yugos have been busy formalizing agreements outlined in economic talks at Moscow in Sep '55, when Soviets offered credits to total \$220 million.
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- 3. \$54 million (for raw materials) to be drawn in 2 to 3 years.
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 cally freely convertible credit to
 - 4. \$120 million (for agriculture in-
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SLIPE!

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- latter a copy of Yugoslavia's White Book (which treats in detail Soviet efforts to infiltrate, overthrow Tito regime).
- W. We still stand on our estimate that Tito's dominant motivation is to maintain Yugoslav independence.

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